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INAUGURAL DISCOURSES,

Lafayette College,

EASTON, PA.

JUNE 24TH, 1884.

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Rev. J. H. M. Knox, D. D.,

President.

Sir:—You are respectfully requested to furnish to the Board of Trustees of Lafayette College a copy of your Inaugural Address for publication. It is proposed to publish with your address the other addresses attending your inauguration as President of the College.

Very respectfully,

A. Pardee, President.

FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Mr. A. Pardee,

President of Board of Trustees of Lafayette College.

My Dear Sir:—The address for which you have asked is herewith placed at your disposal.

Yours very truly,

Jas. H. Mason Knox.

DISCOURSES

AT THE

INAUGURATION

OF THE

REV. JAMES H. MASON KNOX, D. D.,

AS

PRESIDENT OF LAFAYETTE COLLEGE,

EASTON, PA.

JUNE 24TH, 1884.

INTRODUCTION.

BY A. PARDEE, PRESIDENT OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

DR. KNOX, DEAR SIR:—It has become my pleasant duty, as President of the Board of Trustees of Lafayette College, to announce officially your unanimous election by the Board to the Presidency of the Institution, and as such to introduce you to the public and to the alumni, faculty, and students of the College. I pledge you, on behalf of the Board, their earnest support and friendly counsel, and ask of the faculty their cordial co-operation with you in the government of the College, of the alumni their help in forwarding its prosperity, and of the students the cheerful obedience, respect, and confidence due to you personally and officially.

You need from me, sir, no words of counsel or admonition as to your course of policy as President, even were I capable of giving them. You have the full confidence of the friends of the Institution and of your associates in its government, and their best wishes that you may long and prosperously fill the office you now assume. And now, sir, I take you by the hand and greet you as President of Lafayette College.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

BY

REV. JAMES H. MASON KNOX, D. D.

GENTLEMEN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES :—I am here this evening formally to assume the Presidency of Lafayette College, to which I have been called by your votes ; but not, as I conceive, solely, or even chiefly because of these. A mere election thus would have been declined with great ease. It has, however, been made to appear to me that you were the instrumentality in the hands of Divine Providence to bring me here to attempt the discharge of duties for which I have no ability, excepting as God, whom I serve, shall give it to me. His will I trust I obey in standing in this presence, and in view of the weighty responsibilities of the position I am to occupy, as a hundred times already I have made it, now again my appeal is to Him without whom I can do nothing—"If Thy presence go not with me, carry me not up thence."

This College is no stranger to me. Especially from the time of the second Presidency of him who was its father, I have been familiar with its story. By nearness of residence to Easton, by residence in Easton itself, by intimate personal, ecclesiastical, and official association with those who had charge of its interests, my opportunities have been many to know its struggles and trials in its efforts to make for itself a name and a place among the institutions of learning in our land. I knew, and marked with sentiments of the most profound admiration, the spirit of self-sacrifice with which that heroic man of God, made of the stuff of which martyrs are made, prayed and labored to fulfill by the agency of "lovely Lafayette" the purposes to which, on a bed of sickness which was nigh unto death, he devoted his spared

life, the furnishing of competent men for the gospel ministry. But as he was inspired with this one thing, and gave himself wholly to it, throwing into his work the wonderful force of his personality filled with the Spirit of God, I do not believe the College would have survived any considerable period. That it did live, that it has thriven and become a power in the land, I am assured is because of the foundation in faith and prayer which was laid by Dr. Junkin and the men associated with him in the faculty and in the classes they gathered about them.

He left, and other men faithful and true took his place—Yeomans, Nassau, McLean, McPhail—and under them the College did good work, though hindered by difficulties so great, as seemed time and time again would break it down utterly, and must have done so, but that the old spirit in which it was begun and carried forward in its early day lived and wrought in the hearts and lives of those who in the crises of its affairs were in its management and chairs of instruction. Of these latter one still survives. His name I need not mention. For more than a quarter of a century he has been writing that name in ineffaceable characters in the affections of the youth of as many classes. For as much time and more, if God will, may he be still spared to the College to increase her fame and to enlarge her rightful pride that on her list of instructors she has one to whom, without fear of exciting a jealous feeling anywhere—so meekly does he bear his honors—all award the title, *facile princeps*.

But, notwithstanding the faith and courage of those men, there came a time in the history of this Institution when its affairs were desperate indeed and the heart of the strongest was ready to fail. This extremity was God's opportunity. By His good Spirit, the look of the Trustees was directed to one who had distinguished himself as a professor, and William C. Cattell was invited to the Presidency. I need not speak of his sagacity, enthu-

siasm, and success. They are known to you. They are known to all men. The record of his devotion to the College is written on every side of us. Behold it in these beautified grounds, in these buildings, the Chemical Hall, the Observatory, the Reading-room, the Chapel, the Gymnasium, and this noble Hall of Science in which we are assembled. Behold it in the greatly enlarged course of instruction and in the attendance of students, now counted by hundreds when before there were scarcely as many scores. Behold it in the fact that Lafayette has risen from a condition in which it was well nigh to extinction to her present eminence as a seat of learning. President Cattell did not indeed effect these great changes for the better without help. But they were *his* words and his earnestness in the work he had in hand which interested *you*, honored President of the Board of Trustees, and persuaded you to make the best—aye, the most remunerative—investment of your life in this splendid structure and the instruction given herein. As with you, so with others who counted it their honor to give of their substance to achieve for this Institution the results in which we rejoice to-night. They too were won by Dr. Cattell to care for Lafayette, and the successes he achieved through the men he so warmly attached to himself, while he made their purses tributary to the College, shall remain evermore the monuments to the intelligent, untiring, and self-denying services of the man who for twenty years carried its interests in his heart of hearts, to do and suffer for them, and the work of whose hands Almighty God established so firmly.

The strain at last became too great. Our friend was convinced that to continue to endure it longer would be to cast him aside from all hopes of future usefulness, and the Trustees yielded with great regret and sorrow to the necessity of granting his request to be released from his heavy care. And now I am to take up the burden which my dear friend has laid down. From the time when my name was used in connection with this office, I

have not ceased to wonder at what the meaning of it might be. That it should be so used until it was done had not once occurred to me as among the things possible. Is it of God or of men? If it be of God, as I humbly trust it is, and therefore, and only therefore, am I here, then I may have confidence that the College shall receive further tokens of good from Him in whose name and for whose glory it was established, and whose loving kindness hitherto has been so conspicuous in its history.

But the means—and for these we are responsible—by which this Divine favor shall be continued and enlarged, what shall they, what must they be? In the history of the world, and most emphatically in the history of our country, there has been no time when the responsibility was greater upon those who have to do with the instruction of youth in the higher departments of knowledge. In a very short time the young men now gathered in the colleges are to be leaders in the chief spheres of influence in society, they are to control thought and action at the very centres of power. This, indeed, has been true always, but to-day it is a truth demanding a consideration such as it never demanded before. There is a fearful activity nowadays in the human mind, urging it on as with an inflamed impulse, that sometimes threatens to bear down every established landmark of truth and order. We would not if we could check this activity; it is a grand thing, calling for no condemnation, but requiring to be so directed as to make it the means of blessing and not of cursing to the great and varied interests with which it must have to do.

To give this direction is the peculiar work especially of the higher institutions of learning. I know that much is said upon occasions of self-made men, with the intimation that as they are needed—without the aid of educational facilities—the men for the times will be found. In this presence refutation of this ignorant and short-sighted thinking need not be attempted. No

educated man can be true to his advantages and fail to recognize and rejoice in ability achieving success in the lack of advantages personal to itself. However much the individual may be worthy of praise for his triumph over difficulties, the triumph itself is the result of education, and would have been greater or more easily accomplished under the circumstances of its achievement, had the individual been prepared by careful training to avail himself of the work done for him by educated men. None know this better than self-made men themselves, and the proof of their appreciation of their own needs, is seen in the fact that a very large proportion of the noble endowments of educational institutions which have marked these latter years, has been the gift of men who did not enjoy the advantages they so munificently bestowed on others. It is, I think, evident as an axiom that the university, the college, is a necessity in order to the furnishing of competent men *without* it, as well as within it, to do the work of life in its commanding places. For this the prescribed course of study has special adaptation. Not so much because of the knowledge, in the sense of information which it imparts (most important as this is), as for the discipline of mind it secures. The curriculum of former days has been greatly modified, or rather enlarged, by the demands of the present age, but still the end in view has not been changed. The college is not and cannot be a school for apprentices who will, immediately on leaving its halls, begin to work at their trades. Nor is it a professional school, to send out its graduates as fully prepared men to engage at once in their chosen life occupations, but it is a *disciplinary* institution in which to train the mind so that it shall lay hold of and appropriate the learning needful to fit it for the special calling in life, whatever that calling may be. It is this foundation work a college does. The graduate who judges himself to have finished his education when he receives his diploma probably judges rightly concerning himself; but

just as probably, in after years, *Alma Mater* will have no reason to point with pride to him as her son.

But more than intellectual discipline is the result of a college course. That they may act well their part in life, young men need the four years' confinement to severe, exact, and comprehensive study. They need, *besides*, the morale which college life is so well adapted to secure to them. They are apt to be confident and willful in their opinions, and therefore *need* the subduing influence of college law, the singularly republican influences of college society, where the distinction of merit absorbs that of birth and wealth. Besides the study demanded from them, they come into contact in college with nameless and numberless incidents which discipline them into a much more complete manhood. Excrescences of character are worn away by intercourse with professors and senior students and by the experiences of the recitation-room and the platform. The very contact with college walls has an abrading effect which no one can fully analyze. In many particulars he may surpass all other men, but in some particulars a self-taught man must be an untaught man, for he has not been overawed by the authority nor regaled by the reminiscences of those institutions which are both intended and fitted to remind us of the *treasures* lying hid in the soul.

These are some of the influences—the list might be greatly enlarged and yet the half not be told—which meet and accompany young men who are gathered within the walls of the college. Their power is very great. It behooves trustees and faculties to give to them all the force of which they are capable. The more energy in these influences, the greater the assurance that the men subjected to them will not fall by the way because of temptations to evil; the surer the result that in all their lives they will be able men, equal to tasks demanding skill, wisdom, and character, men quick to discern the true and the right, and to uphold and defend them with an intelligence and integrity of purpose which will

command both respect and obedience. Of merely smart men, the world always has had more than enough. Of men of comprehensive minds, of thorough training, of integrity of heart and high purposes, there can never be an over-supply, nor, as a rule, can they be produced by other means than those which are worked by the higher institutions of learning. Men of strong intellects, men of high probity not thus trained are not few in the various walks of life; but the men to persuade, to reform, to lead, are for the most part those who in their early youth and manhood have been subjected to the discipline of the schools. And if in our day of unrest and stirring movements there is to be order—if law, and not licentiousness, is to govern; if truth and righteousness are to prevail, then has every college a work to do the magnitude and importance of which are beyond the power of speech to tell.

But mere intellectual and social influence will not do this work. It demands this, but, besides, that which is higher and better. In order to be the power it should be, the college *must* be a religious institution, teaching the truth revealed by God in His Word, and having its life permeated by the spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ. It will be of little account to themselves or to society to send forth our young men into the activities of life accomplished linguists, profound mathematicians, subtle metaphysicians, learned and skillful chemists and engineers, if with the discipline and attainments by which they reach these good degrees they have not been instructed in the fear of God, which is the beginning of wisdom. My profound conviction is that a seminary of any sort which does not inculcate the principles of true religion, which does not hold and illustrate in its life and with positiveness, the fundamental doctrines of Christianity, might better not exist. It is true of institutions, as of individuals, that godliness has the promise of the life that now is *and* of the life that is to come. This is not a matter of opinion or of

prejudice but it is a fact, than which no fact is more capable of demonstration from the pages of history. "It is a stale proverb that 'ignorance is the mother of devotion,' but the true apothegm is that devotion is one parent of knowledge. There is an inherent affinity between science and virtue. God has joined them together, and though man has often put them asunder, yet the disquiet which ensues from their divorce is a sign that nature demands their union. Hence we find that nearly all the universities of the Christian world have been founded by the clergy and for their use. The oldest colleges of our land were for a long time regarded and conducted as schools of the Church." With these incontrovertible statements, Professor Park, of Andover, a generation ago, began an elaborate address on the "Utility of Collegiate and Professional Schools." The time which has passed since they were made has, I think, only demonstrated more abundantly the fact that to do its best work a college must be instinct with the *light* and *life* of Christianity. All efforts to have it otherwise, to make it a purely secular institution, are attended with such risks to the best interests of society, are so *certain* to result in disaster to them, that it is preferable to have no education than to have one that is without God. Of institutions in which the effort is made to carry them forward without religion, and which live and even *thrive*, is it not true that they eat Christ's bread while they lift up their heels against Him? They are obliged to recognize Him, who is the light of the world, however unwilling they may be to do so. It is the ungracious tribute they pay to Him which is the salt which saves them from corruption of mind and morals. The college on whose foundation-stone is inscribed the motto, *Pro Christo et ejus cruce*, and whose daily life is inspired with the Spirit of Him who came not to be ministered unto but to minister, and who gave His life a ransom for many, is the college, other things being equal, which will exert the best, the highest, and the most

permanent influence on those whom it instructs, and through them on society and the world. This is true, as it is also true that the community or the State which holds most tenaciously and most fully to the doctrines of religion that are known as *Evangelical* will demand and sustain institutions of learning of a high order; in other words, in proportion to the depth of religious conviction are mental activity and the call for the necessary appliances for intellectual cultivation. To quote that great light of the University of Dublin, William Archer Butler: "As all knowledge is mainly valuable as it helps our efforts for the last and mightiest knowledge of ourselves and God, so when this is attained, through virtue of the Christian truth, *it*, in its turn, radiates back upon all the departments of knowledge a new and blessed light. And thus the revelation of Christ not merely teaches us in itself a series of truths of inexpressible importance, and without it wholly unattainable, but it *also*, as a great central discovery, harmonizes all our beliefs, sacred and secular, binds them together as its own servants, gives them a new interest and position and coloring, and dignifies the pursuit of them as a labor in the very cause of God Himself, for to know the beauty of the temple is to know the glory of the architect. And hence so far are we who advocate the Revelation of Christ as the basis of education, from restricting or dreading the free search of natural knowledge, that, on the contrary, when once the corner-stone has been fixed in our foundation, we hail every bright discovery as a new tribute to the creating and redeeming God whom we adore." Some statistics which have fallen very recently under my observation are in place here as illustrating in actual fact the relation between faith and culture. These are they. In England, with a population of 25,000,000, there are 5,000 students in the colleges and universities, or one student for each 5,000 of population. In Germany, in a population of 48,000,000, there are 22,500 students, or one student for each

2,134 of population. In our New England States, in a population of 4,110,000, there are 4,000 students, or one student for each 1,028 of population. In Scotland, in a population of 4,000,000, there are 6,500 students, or one student for each 616 of population. These figures go far to establish the proposition that piety and education go hand in hand, for I suppose it is not doubted that Scotland is foremost of nations in intelligent devotion to the truths and principles taught in the Scripture, and, as it appears, it is also foremost in providing students to the more advanced seminaries of learning; and Scotland's sons in the blood or in the faith have been among the most zealous in the establishment and support of schools and colleges in this Western land, and these institutions, thus founded and supplied, have contributed in largest number the men of fibre to elucidate, uphold, and defend against all opposers the principles of truth and liberty which are its glory. *Certainly* it is so, that religion and true learning are married, and to disturb the intimacy of their relations is an act of violence which in the Providence of that God who has both pronounced and blessed the banns cannot go unpunished.

Gentlemen of the Board of Trustees, I know that the sentiments I have expressed are your convictions. Association with you for many years in counsel and effort and prayer for this College, which by every endeavor has become more endeared to you, allows me to entertain no doubt of your faith, that, except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. Your works, your liberal and continuous benefactions, show your zeal for every department of literary and scientific culture, but in *this*, from first to last, your aim has been to make the College show forth more and more the praise of God, the Father of Lights, and of His Son Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. This has been the genius of this College from the beginning of its history to the present hour. The banner inscribed to the

glory of God flung to the breeze in the early days of its existence, to this moment has never been furled, nor has its lustre been permitted to become less. Receiving it *thus* from the hands of the honored men who have preceded me in this high office, here and now, in humble dependence on the grace I need so much, and for which I pray most earnestly, I promise that it shall be kept still aloft and its colors shall not fade. That, in fulfilling this purpose and pledge I shall have your earnest sympathy and help, I need no greater assurance than the record you have already made of faithfulness in your trust. It is a matter of most profound gratitude, and, next to God, my chiefest strength, that you, gentlemen, so long my companions, and who have been thoroughly tried and not found wanting, are the custodians of these precious interests over which I am called to preside.

GENTLEMEN OF THE FACULTY:—You have given me already a most cordial welcome, for which you have my heartfelt thanks. You are not strangers to me, either personally or by the reputation you have earned as instructors, and I am assured in advance of your earnest co-operation with me in whatever gives good promise of benefiting this College, which commands so thoroughly your affection and duty. Lafayette has had a remarkable history in the devotion of her teachers. They have loved her and given themselves to her with a self-abnegation that I must regard as well nigh-unparalleled.

This spirit lives in you, gentlemen of the Faculty of to-day. It burns even with fervor, and what in you lies to exalt the fame of the College, that you do earnestly, heartily, not as pleasing men, but as pleasing God. I speak that which I do know and testify to what I have seen. My brethren—so let me call you, and so let me regard you; the work devolved upon you and me justifies the highest degree of enthusiasm. A college deserves the

name of Christian only when it is pervaded by the Spirit of Him who said, "*My meat* is to do the will of Him who sent me, and to finish His work." His work here and for us is to produce thorough scholarship conjoined with the truest manliness of character. The former without the latter is of little worth. To do these things with the young men in our care is to do a work for them, and through them for the country and for the world, the measures of which baffle computation. It demands entire consecration of every power of mind and heart. Its reward will compensate the effort and the toil infinitely. I know well that in thus speaking I have your consent and approbation, and that in every endeavor to enlarge the well-earned fame of the College and make it more than ever a power for God and man, I shall have your steadfast and most resolute help. Gentlemen, thus assured, with unfeigned pleasure I take my place as President of the Faculty.

To the Alumni I may be allowed to speak a word. You are the sons of *Alma Mater*, no longer under tutors and governors, but of full age, from whom she expects and should have the most affectionate attention and constant tokens of devoted regard. I have no reason to doubt that you recognize the claim which Lafayette has upon you for whatever service you can render to strengthen and enlarge her usefulness. The present is the time of your opportunity to manifest your sense of duty to the College which in the time of *your need* gave to you so freely of her treasures. The foundations for a future prosperity, exceeding far anything to which she has attained hitherto, are laid broad and deep, and it needs only the resolve, and the act according with the resolve, on the part of each alumnus to do for her as God has given ability, to make that most attractive prospect an immediate possession. Let her children do their part in this behalf, and the time, the set time, to favor this College will have come.

FRIENDS OF LAFAYETTE:—It is written, it is good for a man to bear the yoke in his youth. The saying is just as true of an institution as of a man. As a man who has come into prosperity after struggling with the hardships of adversity has a fibre which can be produced only by such experience, as he is possessed of a stronger character, of sympathies and abilities which otherwise he could not have had, so is it with an institution of benevolence or of learning. It is good for it to have a history making directly for its power and usefulness, written in the scars of struggling, the tremblings, the fears, the disappointments, in, through, and by which it has become able to accomplish the greatest things. This ability can be had in no other way. I do not then regard it as other than a blessing to Lafayette that in these fifty years and more of her existence she has had a great fight of afflictions, that she has had to contend from the beginning with insufficient pecuniary means, that such men as McCartney and Coleman and Coffin and others who might be named have not counted their lives dear to them if only the College might do good work for God and man; that by such devotion, which only such moral heroes could show, she has lived and sent forth her graduates, now numbering a thousand, into all lands, and on errands of uplifting power in every department of commanding influence. She has done this thing, and she has done it well, and by doing it she has earned—I speak the word in all modesty yet with strong conviction—*the right* to live not only, but to be lifted into a condition of prosperity such as by her past experiences she has been fitted to use rightly. Lafayette has borne the yoke in her youth. Is she not now of such age that with safety, with assurance, the dear College, which men of whom the world was not worthy have carried on their hearts as their treasure, which they must defend and save at whatever cost, may enter upon her inheritance? What say you, friends, who have already done so well in laying the magnificent founda-

tions here? And what say you, friends, who have been almost persuaded to join the others and to erect the superstructure on this magnificent foundation? Is not this the time to give completeness to your half-formed resolutions? The work that waits to be done shall be done. Lafayette will have an endowment commensurate with her Halls. But whose shall be the praise as the agents of Him whose are the silver and the gold and the cattle upon a thousand hills? The faith which was the gift of the Holy Ghost, which here planted this Institution, as beautiful for situation as was Jerusalem of old; the faith which has labored on till this time, receiving continual tokens that it is of God—shall not, cannot be disappointed, for He is faithful who has promised. But who shall be His servants to fulfill the promise? Will not you, beloved friends, who to-night gather here to bid God speed to him who is here only because he believes that God is, as He has been, with Lafayette, and that He will help her, and that right early?

And now, our prayer to Him who heareth prayer, is, the Work of our hands, establish Thou it; yea, the work of our hands, establish Thou it. With a diffidence so great that I cannot tell it, yet with a confidence so great I cannot define it, for I do not understand it, but believe it to be of God, I take up this great work. If I am rightly here, then it shall prosper in my hands; if I am not here rightly, then it shall prosper in the hands of others, for prosper it shall—the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Ye that make mention of the Lord, pray for me.

FACULTY WELCOME

By Professor Addison Ballard, D. D.

Dr. Knox :—Having been unanimously and cordially invited by the Trustees to the Presidency of this College, they have now completed their action by formally inducting you into your high office.

By request of the faculty, I now extend to you in their behalf a like unanimous and a like cordial welcome.

Had you, before your election, been an utter stranger to the College and to us, we should still have given you this friendly greeting, as a proper mark of our respect for the decision of the Board and of our confidence in the wisdom of its choice.

But you have not come a stranger to the College. On the contrary, you have been intimately acquainted with it for many years. As a trustee, you have rendered it long, faithful, and valuable service. Its methods of discipline and of instruction will not, therefore, be experiments with you. Indeed, I congratulate you that in some important particulars respecting which some of our colleges seem to be in the throes of an anxious discussion, we have here passed beyond the stage of experiment into that of permanent and successful operation. From this, our advanced position, we look back sympathetically and see some of our older institutions still wrestling with their new theories of educational reform. In order, for example, to soothe the impatience under discipline of the modern American student it has been proposed in some quarters to admit him to a joint control with the faculty in the government of the College. But our own officers and students have so long been on

the footing of a mutually good understanding that such a change is quite unnecessary here. Again, the magazines of the country are just now bristling with sharp discussions of the question, "In what does a liberal education really consist?" One distinguished educator inquires earnestly how the English can be elevated in our colleges to a larger share of instruction and study. But had our eminent New England inquirer only condescended to come a little further south before asking his questions, our own Anglo-Saxon Columbus would have been most happy to show him how some twenty odd years ago he himself stood that unsteady philological egg on the broad table of his already historic class-room. And we could also show how this increased attention to the English has not yet so interfered with the study of the Greek or Latin as to make it impossible longer to find a student in the classics who can write a "good Latin salutatory."

The completed college education represented by the diplomas which it will be part of your duty to bestow is the joint result of the work of many instructors in many different departments. We welcome you because, from what we have seen, we are assured that each one of these departments will have your hearty encouragement, and, to the extent of the means at your command, your practical support; that you will be glad to see each man make the most of his department and of himself in it; and that you will heartily rejoice in the success of the endeavors of any of your colleagues to add in any way to the real efficiency and to the honorable reputation of the College; that, in short, you will regard that as the highest and truest harmony which best combines the unhindered and full power of the individual parts.

But more especially do we welcome you because we know that you are in perfect accord with the founders and their successors in the purpose here to imbue a sound scholarship with a thoroughly Christian spirit; because you regard the College as

a means for advancing a divine spiritual kingdom among men; because you believe that the Bible is the only efficient instrument for the promotion of that end; and because, therefore, no departure need be feared under your administration from our traditional study of the Bible, as being in its entirety the revealed word of God.

Times of transition are necessarily to some extent times of suspense and of anxiety. But I believe that I voice the sentiment of my colleagues when I say that with us that time of suspense is already passed. Your letter of acceptance, in October last, and the spirit of your baccalaureate on last Sunday morning, convince us that you have sought and have received a higher than human wisdom in the acceptance of this new post of duty. From the well-earned and honorable successes of those who have preceded you, we look, therefore, to see the College pass on to such larger and nobler results as will gladden the hearts of the lovers of sound Christian education, and as will justify to all the friends of the College the wisdom of your appointment.

Be assured then, Dr. Knox, that in the discharge of your many difficult and responsible duties you will have our hearty and our earnest co-operation. In behalf of my colleagues, I give you more than words of formal and official greeting, I give you the hand of sincere and affectionate welcome.

And now, pleasant as it has been to me to give this welcome to President Knox, I have another agreeable part to do, and I trust that the audience will bear with me while I do it, though it is not down on the programme. I had thought that we might have with us this evening, and that you might have with you to-morrow, one whom we all honor as a generous and steadfast friend of Lafayette College. I mean the Hon. John I. Blair, of Blairstown, N. J. During an interview which I had with him yesterday afternoon, he desired me to express to the President and Trustees, and to all who are gathered here, his

regret at not being able, through bodily indisposition, to be with us during these commencement exercises. It will be remembered that a few years since Mr. Blair endowed the President's chair in the large sum of forty thousand dollars. In the interview which I had with him on yesterday afternoon, I suggested to him that the house now occupied by the President was rather too small for so large a chair, and as Mr. Blair is not a man to do things by halves, he generously consented to make the proportion between the chair and the house more nearly as it should be. He therefore kindly sends by me this message: "That he gives to the College the sum of fifteen thousand dollars with which to purchase Dr. Cattell's house and lot for the President's house." This commodious and elegant residence will thus form another link by which the life and work of our new President will be joined to the life and work of his honored predecessor.

ALUMNI GREETING.

By Hon. R. E. James.

Dr. Knox, President of Alumni Association:—You have had tendered you the assistance of the muscle of the College, the strong arm and steady hand that puts the machinery in motion and furnishes the supplies; the motive power, as represented by the Trustees. You have received words of welcome from the brain of the College, the body that by its eminence in learning and devotion to education's cause reflects honor upon the institution it serves and prepares the way for the men of the future. It remains for me, as the representative of Lafayette Alumni, to tender you the *heart* of our College, the strong affections, earnest hopes, and unwavering loyalty of her sons. Her history is the sum of the leaflets taken from the books of their lives, and their lives are the more potent for good because she existed, and existed for them. Philanthropy may vary the objects of its bounty, zeal to instruct may find a myriad of fields for its labors, but affection follows only the specific object of its love.

To you, sir, as the future custodian of Lafayette's welfare, they turn with fervent good wishes. In aught that can enure to the benefit of their *Alma Mater* they stand united, zealous, and as an army, shoulder to shoulder, ready to act. Summon them to your assistance; they will gladly respond.

And now, on behalf of these sons of Lafayette, I bid you welcome and God-speed in your labors.